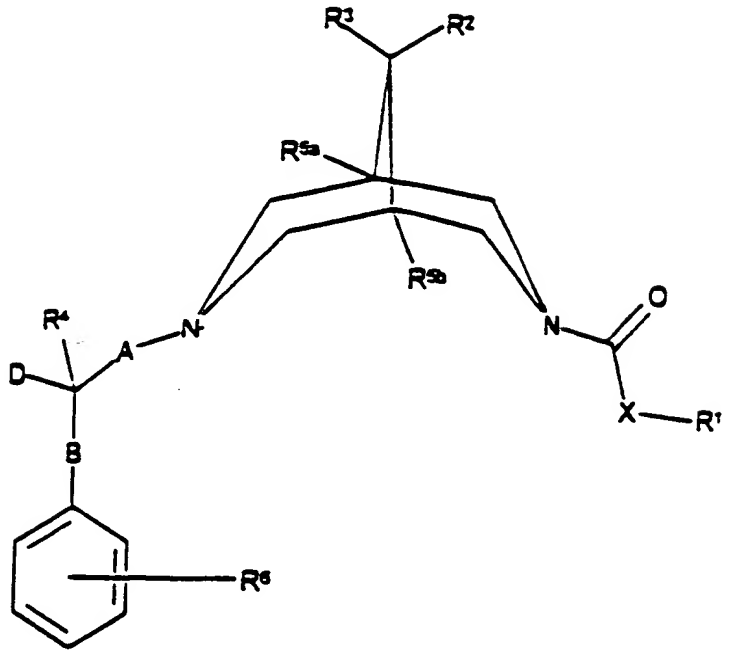
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). A compound of formula I,



I

wherein

R^1 represents C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_a$-aryl, or $(CH_2)_aHet^1$ (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-4} cycloalkyl and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{3-4} cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het^1 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R^{5a} and R^{5b} independently represent H , C_{1-3} alkyl or C_3 cycloalkoxy;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl (optionally substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups), C_{3-4} cycloalkyl, OR^7, $N(R^{7a})R^{7b}$, $OC(O)R^8$ or together form -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-, -$(CH_2)_3$-, -$(CH_2)_4$- or -$(CH_2)_5$-;

R^7 and R^8 independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, or -$(CH_2)_b$-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, and/or C_{3-4} cycloalkyl);

R^{7a} and R^{7b} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

b represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^4 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or -$(CH_2)_c N(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^{10} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_d$-aryl, -$C(NH)NH_2$, -$S(O)_2R^{13}$, -$[C(O)]_e N(R^{14})(R^{15})$, -$C(O)R^{16}$ or -$C(O)OR^{17}$;

e represents 1 or 2;

R^{11} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, -$C(O)R^{18}$ or -$(CH_2)_f$-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^2 or $-(CH_2)_g$-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{13} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het^2 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R^6 represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally terminated by $-N(H)C(O)OR^{18a}$), C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy, $-C(O)N(H)R^{19}$, $-NHC(O)N(H)R^{20}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$ and/or $-OS(O)_2R^{22}$;

R^{19} and R^{20} independently represent H , C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{18a}, R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond, C_{1-6} alkylene, $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j$-, $-O(CH_2)_j$- or ~~$-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k$-~~ $\underline{-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-}$ (in which latter three groups, the $-(CH_2)_j$- group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C_{1-4} alkylene, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})$-, $(CH_2)_mS(O)_n$-, $-(CH_2)_mO$- (in which three latter groups, the $-(CH_2)_m$- group is attached to the carbon

atom bearing D and R^4), -C(O)N(R^{24})- (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), N(R^{24})C(O)O$(CH_2)_m$- or -N(R^{24})$(CH_2)_m$- (in which latter two groups, the N(R^{24}) group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4);

j, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R^{23} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C(O)R^{25}

R^{24} represents H , C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{25} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^3 or -$(CH_2)_p$-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

Het^3 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, N-oxide or C_{1-4} alkyl quaternary ammonium derivative thereof;

wherein alkyl groups that R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, R^7, R^{7a}, R^{7b}, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{18a}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25} and D may represent, and with which R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted; and alkoxy groups ~~and~~ that R^6 may represent, and with which R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or ~~cyclic~~ cycloalkyl or

cycloalkyl with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part ~~cyclic/acyclic~~ cycloalkyl/acyclic or cycloalkoxy/acyclic, with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and $-(CH_2)-$ containing groups that R^1, R^2 and R^3 (together), R^7, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{25}, A, B and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and $-(CH_2)-$ containing chains may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen;

provided that:

(a) when D represents either H or -OH, and R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then at least one of R^2 and R^3 represents OR^7, $OC(O)R^8$ or C_{1-4} alkyl, which alkyl group is substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups; and

(b) when D represents -OH or $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})R^{11}$ in which c represents 0, then:-

(i) A does not represent $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j-$, $-O(CH_2)_j-$ or $-CH_2)_JC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-$ (in which k is 0); and/or

(ii) m does not represent 0 when B represents $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})-$, $-(CH_2)_mS(O)_n-$ or $-(CH_2)_mO-$.

2 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^1 represents optionally substituted -$(CH_2)_a$-phenyl, in which a is 0, 1, 2 or 3, or optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated, linear, branched ~~or cyclic,~~ C_{1-18} alkyl or C_{3-18} cycloalkyl (which ~~latter~~ C_{1-18} alkyl or C_{3-18} cycloalkyl group may also be interrupted by an oxygen atom).

3 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^2 represents H, OR^7, $-CH_2NO_2$ or $-OC(O)R^8$ or together with R^3 -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-.

4 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^3 represents H, OR^7, C_{1-4} alkyl or together with R^2 represents -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-.

5 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^4 represents H or C_{1-2} alkyl.

6 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} either both represent H or both represent methyl.

7 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R^6 represents one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, cyano, nitro, amino or $C(O)N(H)R^{19}$ or $N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$.

8 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein X represents O.

9 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein A represents a single bond or linear, or branched, C_{1-4} alkylene (which group is also optionally interrupted by O).

10 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein B represents a single bond, C_{1-4} alkylene, $-(CH_2)_mO-$ or $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})-$ (in which latter two cases m is 1, 2 or 3).

11 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when D represents $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, c represents 0, 1 or 2.

12 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when D represents $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, R^{10} represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl, $-C(O)R^{16}$ (in which R^{16} is H, C_{1-3} alkyl or Het^2), $-C(O)OR^{17}$ (in which R^{17} is C_{1-5} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl), $-C(NH)NH_2$ or $[C(O)]_eN(H)R_{15}$ (in which R_{15} is H or C_{1-3} alkyl).

13 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when D represents $-(CH)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, R^{11} represents H.

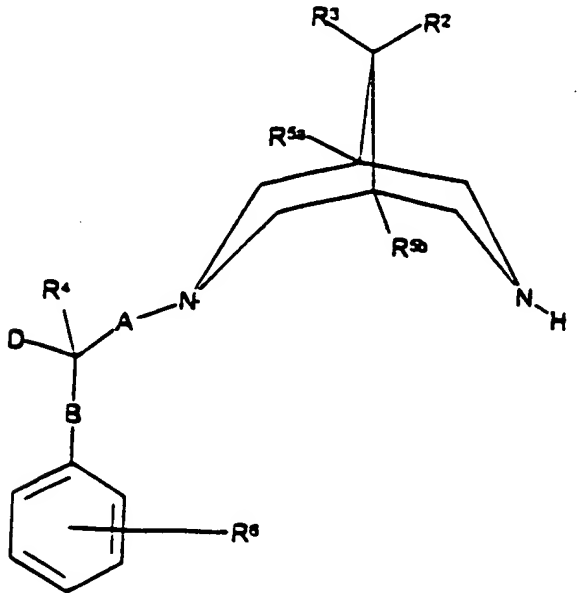
14 (previously presented). A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

15-19 (cancelled).

20 (previously presented). A method of prophylaxis or treatment of an arrhythmia which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in Claim 1 to a person in need thereof.

21 (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined in Claim 1 which comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula II,



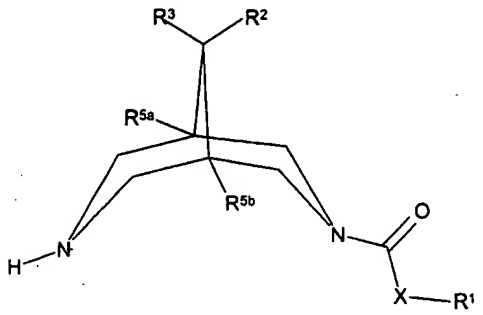
II

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula III,

$$R^1XC(O)L^1 \qquad \text{III}$$

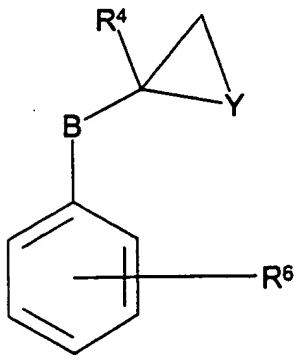
wherein L^1 represents a leaving group and R' and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(b) for compounds of formula I in which A represents CH_2 and D represents —OH or $N(R^{10})H$, reaction of a compound of formula IV,



IV

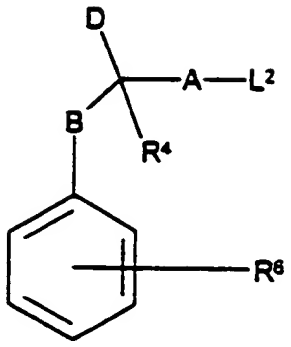
wherein R', R^2, R^3, R^{5a}, $R^{5b}$and X are as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula V,



V

wherein Y represents O or $N(R^{10})$ and R^4, R^6, R^{10} and B are as defined in Claim 1;

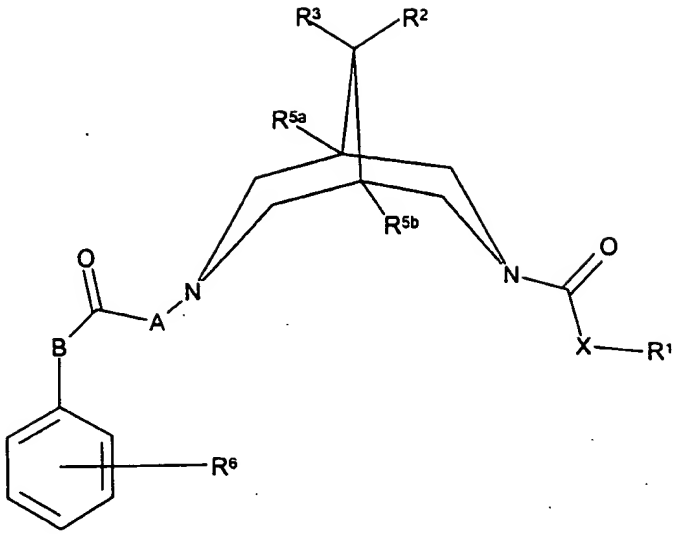
(c) reaction of a compound of formula IV, as defined above, with a compound of formula VI,



VI

wherein L^2 represents a leaving group and R^4, R^6, A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1;

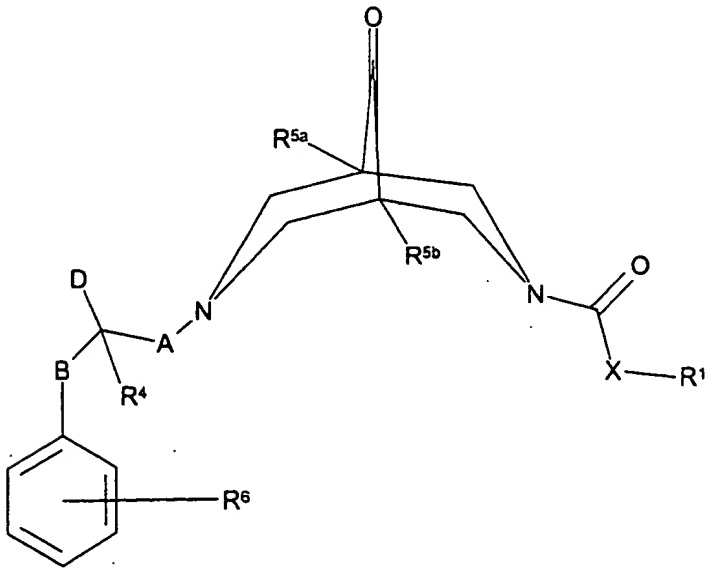
(d) for compounds of formula I in which D represents H or OH and R^4 represents H, reduction of a compound of formula VII,



VII

wherein R', R^2, R^3, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(e) for compounds of formula I in which one of R^2 and R^3 represents H or OH and the other represents H, reduction of a corresponding compound of formula VIII,



VIII

wherein R^1, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B, D and X are as defined in Claim 1;

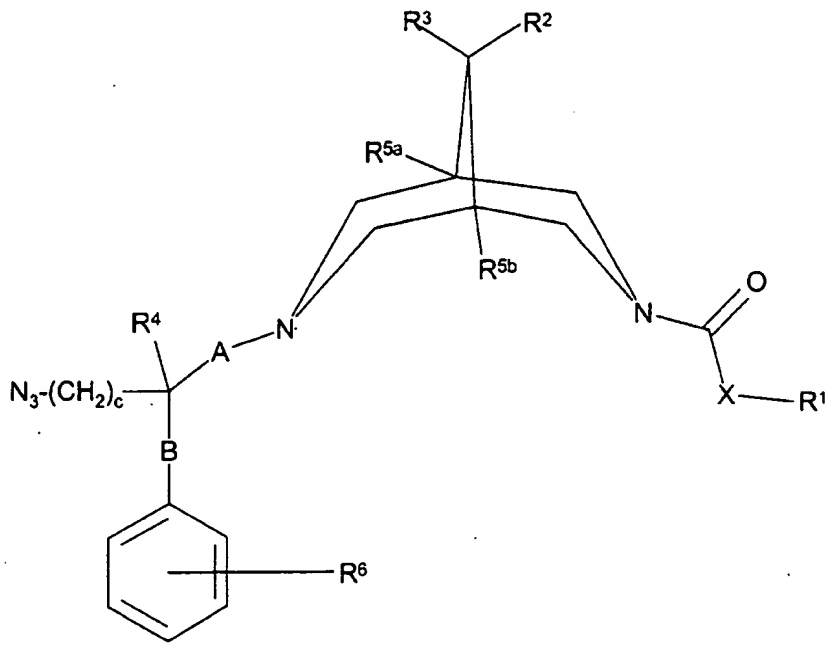
(f) for compounds of formula I in which R^2 and/or R^3 represents $OC(O)R^8$ and R^8

is as defined in Claim 1, coupling of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^2 and/or R^3 (as appropriate) represents OH and a compound of formula VIIIA,

R^8CO_2H VIIIA

wherein R^8 is as defined in Claim 1;

(g) for compounds of formula I in which D represents $—(CH_2)_cNH_2$, reduction of a corresponding compound of formula IX,



IX

wherein c, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B and X are as defined in Claim 1;

(h) for compounds of formula I in which D represents $-N(R^{11})C(O)NH(R^{15})$, in which R^{11} and R^{15} are as defined in Claim 1 except that R^{11} does not represent $C(O)R^{18}$, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D represents $-N(R^{11})H$, in which R^{11} is as defined in Claim 1 except that is does not represent $C(O)R^{18}$ in which R^{18} is as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula X,

$$R^{15}N=C=O \qquad X$$

wherein R^{15} is as defined in Claim 1;

(i) for compounds of formula I in which D represents $-N(H)[C(O)]_2NH_2$, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D represents $-NH_2$ with oxalic acid diamide;

(j) for compounds of formula I in which D represents $-N(R^{11})C(O)R^{16}$, in which R^{11} and R^{16} are as defined in Claim 1 except that R^{11} does not represent $C(O)R^{18}$, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which D represents $-N(R^{11})H$, in which R^{11} is as defined in Claim 1 except that is does not represent $C(O)R^{18}$ in which R^{18} is as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula XI,

$$R^{16}C(O)R_x \qquad XI$$

wherein R_x represents a suitable leaving group and R^{16} is as defined in Claim 1;

(k) for compounds of formula I in which D represents $-N(H)R^{10}$ and R^{10} is as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent H or $-C(NH)NH_2$, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein D represents $-NH_2$ with a compound of formula XIA,

$$R^{10a}L^1 \qquad XIA$$

wherein R^{10a} represents R^{10} as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent H or —$C(NH)NH_2$ and L^1 is as defined above;

(l) for compounds of formula I which are bispidine-nitrogen N-oxide derivatives, oxidation of the corresponding bispidine nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I;

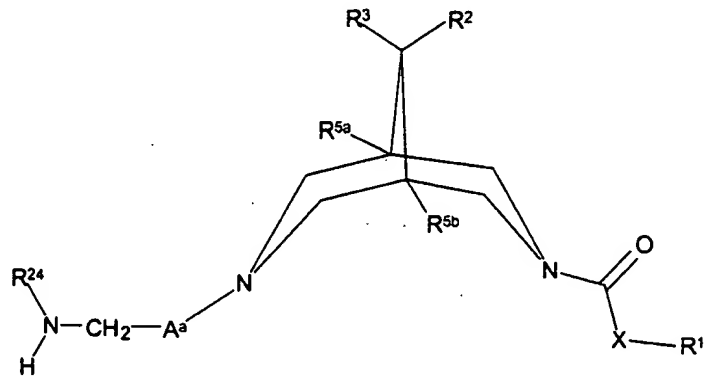
(m) for compounds of formula I which are C_{1-4} alkyl quaternary ammonium salt

derivatives, in which the alkyl group is attached to a bispidine nitrogen, reaction, at the bispidine nitrogen, of a corresponding compound of formula I with a compound of formula XII,

R^3Hal XII

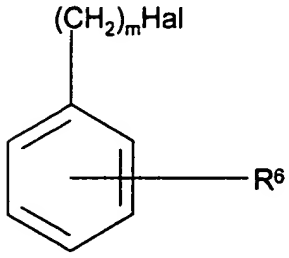
wherein R^a represents C_{1-4} alkyl and Hal represents Cl, Br or I;

(n) for compounds of formula I in which D and R^4 both represent H, A represents C_{1-6} alkylene, B represents $N(R^{24})(CH_2)_m$ and m and R^{24} are as defined in Claim 1, reaction of a compound of formula XIII,



XIII

wherein A^a represents C_{1-6} alkylene and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{24} and X are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula XIV,



XIV

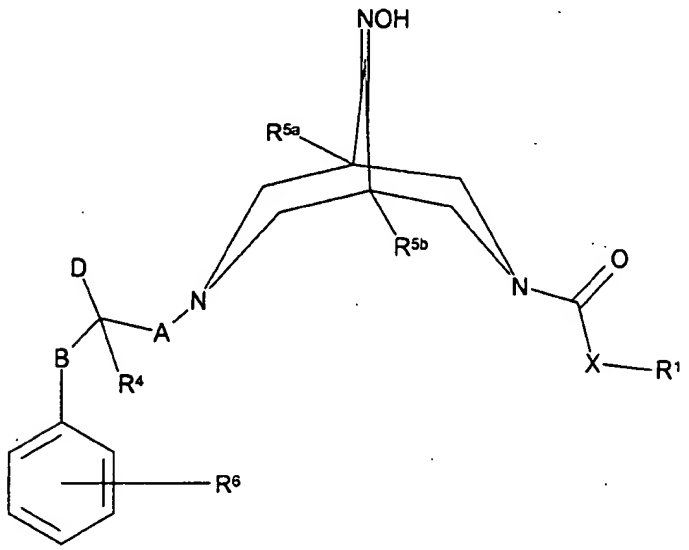
wherein R^6, m are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal is as defined above;

(o) reaction of a compound of formula II, as defined above, with a compound of formula XV,

R^1XH XV

wherein R^1 and X are as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole;

(p) for compounds of formula I in which one of R^2 and R^3 represents $—NH_2$ and the other represents H, reduction of a compound of formula XVA,



XVA

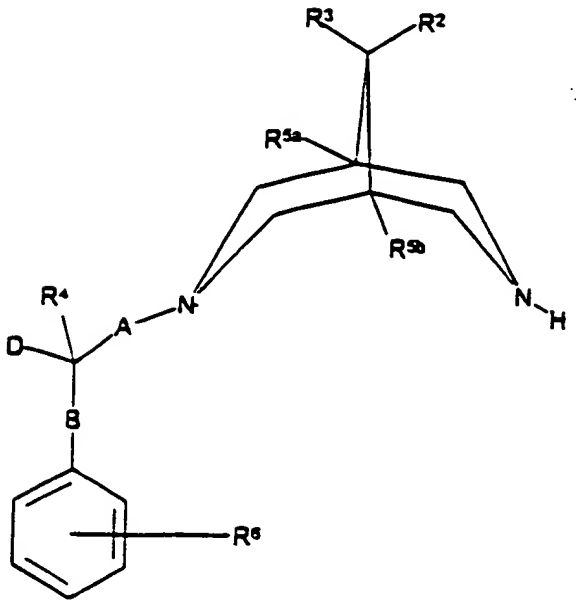
wherein R^1, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B, D and X are as defined in Claim 1; or

(q) for compounds of formula I in which one or both of R^2 and R^3 represent -$N(R^{7a})R^{7b}$ in which one or both or R^{7a} and R^{7b} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, alkylation of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^2 and/or R^3 represent -$N(R^{7a})R^{7b}$ (as appropriate) in which R^{7a} and/or R^{7b} (as appropriate) represent H, using a compound of formula XXIB,

$R^{7c}L^1$ XXIB

wherein R^{7c} represents C_{1-6} alkyl and L^1 is as defined above.

22 (currently amended). A compound of formula II



II

wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} independently represent H, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_3 cycloalkoxy;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl (optionally substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups), C_{3-4} cycloalkyl, OR^7, $N(R^{7a})R^{7b}$, $OC(O)R^8$ or together form -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-, -$(CH_2)_3$-, -$(CH_2)_4$- or -$(CH_2)_5$-;

R^7 and R^8 independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, or -$(CH_2)_b$-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, and/or C_{3-4} cycloalkyl);

R^{7a} and R^{7b} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

b represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^4 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^{10} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_d$-aryl, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-[C(O)]_eN(R^{14})(R^{15})$, $-C(O)R^{16}$ or $-C(O)OR^{17}$;

e represents 1 or 2;

R^{11} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-C(O)R^{18}$ or $-(CH_2)_f$-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^2 or $-(CH_2)_g$-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{13} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het^2 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R^6 represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally terminated by $-N(H)C(O)OR^{18a}$), C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6}

cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy, $-C(O)N(H)R^{19}$, $-NHC(O)N(H)R^{20}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$ and/or $-OS(O)_2R^{22}$;

R^{19} and R^{20} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{18a}, R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond, C_{1-6} alkylene, $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j-$, $-O(CH_2)_j-$ or ~~$-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-$~~ $\underline{-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-}$ (in which latter three groups, the $-(CH_2)_j-$ group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C_{1-4} alkylene, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})-$, $(CH_2)_mS(O)_n-$, $-(CH_2)_mO-$ (in which three latter groups, the $-(CH_2)_m-$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), $-C(O)N(R^{24})-$ (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), $N(R^{24})C(O)O(CH_2)_m-$ or $-N(R^{24})(CH_2)_m-$ (in which latter two groups, the $N(R^{24})$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4);

j, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R^{23} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or $C(O)R^{25}$

R^{24} represents H , C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{25} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^3 or $-(CH_2)_p$-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

Het^3 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

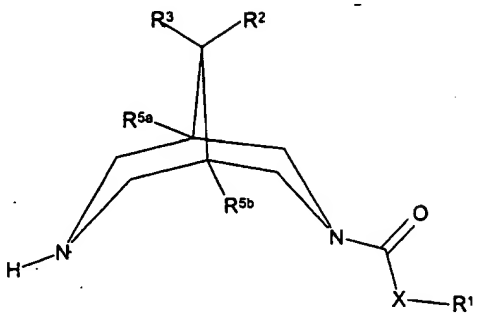
p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

wherein alkyl groups that R^2, R^3, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, R^7, R^{7a}, R^{7b}, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{18a}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25} and D may represent, and with which R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted; and alkoxy groups ~~and~~ that R^6 may represent, and with which R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or ~~cyclic~~ cycloalkyl or cycloalkoxy with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part ~~cyclic/acyclic~~ cycloalkyl/acyclic or cycloalkoxy/acyclic with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and $-(CH_2)-$ containing groups that R^2 and R^3 (together), R^7, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{25}, A, B and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and $-(CH_2)-$ containing chains may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen,

provided that when R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH.

23 (currently amended). A compound of formula IV



IV

wherein R^1 represents C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_a$-aryl, or $(CH_2)_aHet^1$ (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-4} cycloalkyl and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{3-4} cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het^1 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R^{5a} and R^{5b} independently represent H, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_3 cycloalkoxy;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl (optionally substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups), C_{3-4} cycloalkyl, OR^7, $N(R^{7a})R^{7b}$, $OC(O)R^8$ or together form $-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$, $-(CH_2)_3-$, $-(CH_2)_4-$ or $-(CH_2)_5-$;

R^7 and R^8 independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, or $-(CH_2)_b$-aryl or (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, and/or C_{3-4} cycloalkyl);

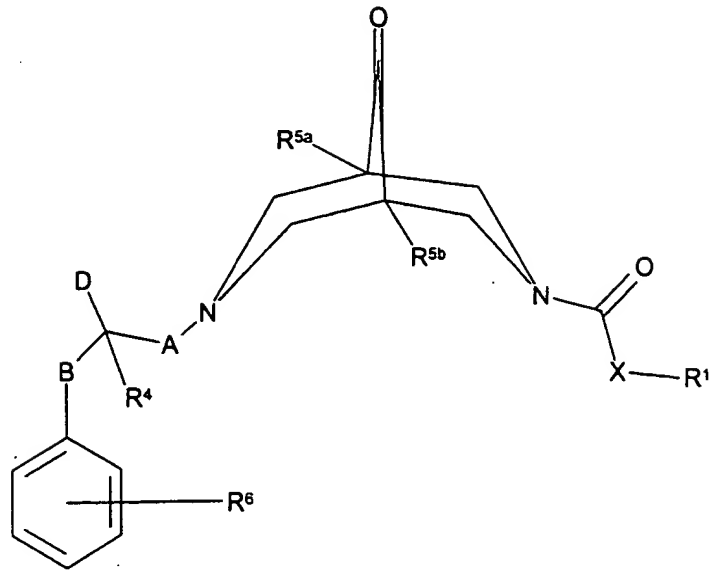
R^{7a} and R^{7b} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

b represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

wherein alkyl groups that R^1, R^2, R^3, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^7, R^{7a}, R^{7b} and R^8 may represent, and with which R^1, R^7 and R^8 may be substituted; and alkoxy groups and with which R^1, R^7 and R^8 may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or ~~cyclic~~ cycloalkyl or cycloalkoxy with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part ~~cyclic/acyclic~~ cycloalkyl/acyclic or cycloalkoxy/acyclic with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups;

provided that when R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then at least one of R^2 and R^3 represents OR^7, $OC(O)R^8$ or C_{1-4} alkyl, which alkyl group is substituted with one or more nitro or cyano groups.

24 (currently amended). A compound of formula VIII



VIII

wherein R^1 represents C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_a$-aryl, or $(CH_2)_aHet^1$ (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-4} cycloalkyl and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{3-4} cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het^1 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R^{5a} and R^{5b} independently represent H, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_3 cycloalkoxy;

R^4 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^{10} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_d$-aryl, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-[C(O)]_eN(R^{14})(R^{15})$, $-C(O)R^{16}$ or $-C(O)OR^{17}$;

e represents 1 or 2;

R^{11} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-C(O)R^{18}$ or $-(CH_2)_f$-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^2 or $-(CH_2)_g$-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{13} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het^2 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R^6 represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally terminated by $-N(H)C(O)OR^{18a}$), C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy, $-C(O)N(H)R^{19}$, $-NHC(O)N(H)R^{20}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$ and/or $-OS(O)_2R^{22}$;

R^{19} and R^{20} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{18a}, R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond, C_{1-6} alkylene, $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j-$, $-O(CH_2)_j-$ or ~~$-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-$~~ $-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k-$ (in which latter three groups, the $-(CH_2)_j-$ group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C_{1-4} alkylene, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})-$, $(CH_2)_mS(O)_n-$, $-(CH_2)_mO-$ (in which three latter groups, the $-(CH_2)_m-$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), $-C(O)N(R^{24})-$ (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), $N(R^{24})C(O)O(CH_2)_m-$ or $-N(R^{24})(CH_2)_m-$ (in which latter two groups, the $N(R^{24})$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4);

j, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R^{23} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or $C(O)R^{25}$

R^{24} represents H , C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{25} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^3 or $-(CH_2)_p$-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

Het^3 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

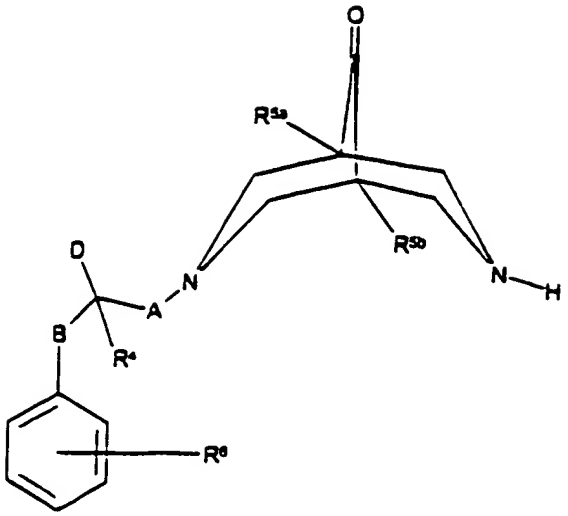
wherein alkyl groups that R^1, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, R^7, R^{7a}, R^{7b}, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{18a}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25} and D may represent, and with

which R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted; and alkoxy groups ~~and~~ that R^6 may represent, and with which R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or ~~cyclic~~ cycloalkyl or cycloalkoxy with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part ~~cyclic/acyclic~~ cycloalkyl/acyclic or cycloalkoxy/acyclic with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and $-(CH_2)-$ containing groups that R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{25}, A, B and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and $-(CH_2)-$ containing chains may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen,

provided that when R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH.

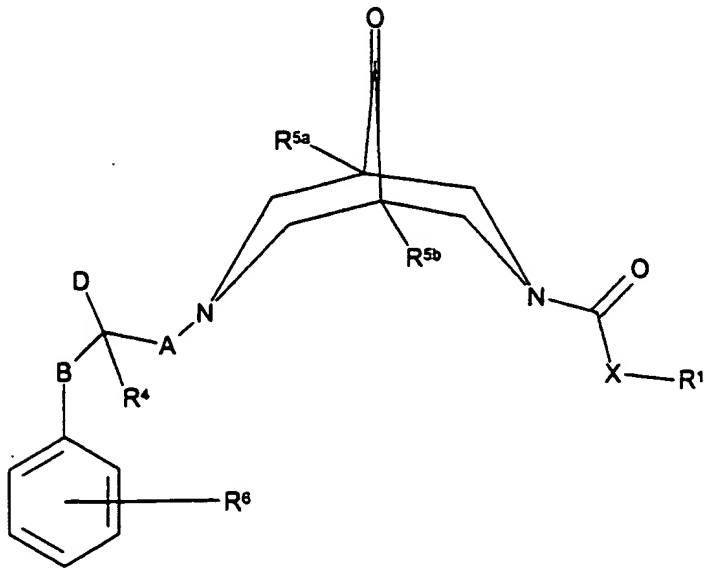
25 (previously presented). A compound of formula XVII,



XVII

wherein R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1, provided that when R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH.

26 (currently amended). A process for the preparation of a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

wherein R^1 represents C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_a$-aryl, or $(CH_2)_aHet^1$ (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-4} cycloalkyl and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy or C_{3-4} cycloalkoxy);

a represents 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Het^1 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

X represents O or S;

R^{5a} and R^{5b} independently represent H, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_3 cycloalkoxy;

R^4 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

D represents H, -OH, or $-(CH_2)_cN(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

c represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^{10} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_d$-aryl, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-[C(O)]_eN(R^{14})(R^{15})$, $-C(O)R^{16}$ or $-C(O)OR^{17}$;

e represents 1 or 2;

R^{11} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-C(O)R^{18}$ or $-(CH_2)_f$-aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^2 or $-(CH_2)_g$-aryl (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

R^{13} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl (all of which are all optionally substituted by one or more substituents chosen from halo, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

d, f, g and h independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Het^2 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R^6 represents one or more optional substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally terminated by $-N(H)C(O)OR^{18a}$), C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy, $-C(O)N(H)R^{19}$, $-NHC(O)N(H)R^{20}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{21}$ and/or $-OS(O)_2R^{22}$;

R^{19} and R^{20} independently represent H , C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{18a}, R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

A represents a single bond, C_{1-6} alkylene, $-N(R^{23})(CH_2)_j$-, $-O(CH_2)_j$- or ~~$-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k$-~~ $-(CH_2)_jC(H)(OR^{23})(CH_2)_k$- (in which latter three groups, the $-(CH_2)_j$- group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom, and which latter four groups are all optionally substituted by one or more OH groups);

B represents a single bond, C_{1-4} alkylene, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{24})$-, $(CH_2)_mS(O)_n$-, $-(CH_2)_mO$- (in which three latter groups, the $-(CH_2)_m$- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), $-C(O)N(R^{24})$- (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4), $N(R^{24})C(O)O(CH_2)_m$- or $-N(R^{24})(CH_2)_m$- (in which latter two groups, the $N(R^{24})$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing D and R^4);

j, k and m independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n represents 0, 1 or 2;

R^{23} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or $C(O)R^{25}$

R^{24} represents H , C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^{25} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, Het^3 or $-(CH_2)_p$-aryl (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, C_{1-6} alkyl , C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and/or C_{3-6} cycloalkoxy);

Het^3 represents a five to ten-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

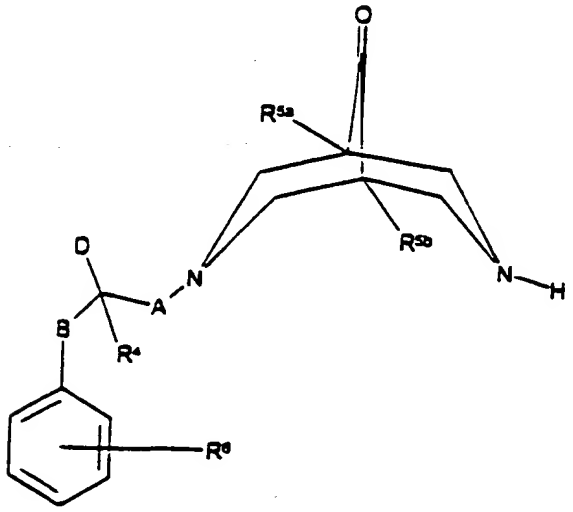
p represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

wherein alkyl groups that R^1, R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, R^7, R^{7a}, R^{7b}, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{18a}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25} and D may represent, and with which R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted; and alkoxy groups ~~and~~ that R^6 may represent, and with which R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{25} may be substituted, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. three) of carbon atoms, be branched and/or ~~cyclic~~ cycloalkyl or cycloalkoxy with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. four) of carbon atoms, such alkyl and alkoxy groups may also be part ~~cyclic/acyclic~~ cycloalkylacyclic or cycloalkoxy/acyclic with carbon ranges as defined above, and wherein such alkyl and alkoxy groups may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen and/or substituted by one or more fluoro groups; and

wherein alkylene groups that A and B may represent, and $-(CH_2)-$ containing groups that R^1, R^7, R^8, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{25}, A, B and D may include, may be linear or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be branched, and wherein such alkylene groups and $-(CH_2)-$ containing chains may ~~also be saturated or~~, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated and/or interrupted by oxygen,

provided that when R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH, or

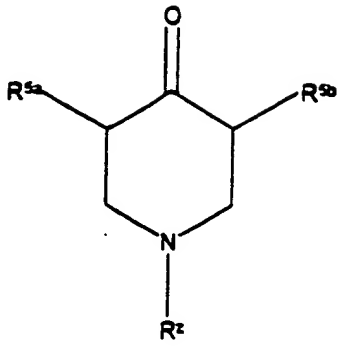
a compound of formula XVII,



XVII

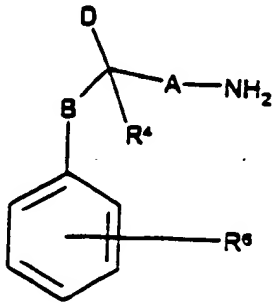
wherein R^4, R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^6, A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1, provided that when R^{5a} and R^{5b} both represent H, then D does not represent H or OH,

which comprises reaction of a compound of formula XXIX,



XXIX

wherein R^Z represents H or -C(O)XR^1 and R^1, R^{5a}, R^{5b} and X are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula XXX,



XXX

wherein R^4, R^6, A, B and D are as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of a formaldehyde.

27 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the arrhythmia is an atrial or a ventricular arrhythmia.